(b) whether this was also discussed during Foreign Secretary's visit to India;

(c) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been reached;

(d) what are total F-16 that has offered to India and whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The United States (US) Administration has informed India of its intention to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. The US Administration has also conveyed that they have cleared US manufacturers to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Multi-Role Combat Aircraft from India. No decision has been taken by the Government of India in this regard.

Absorbing BGML employees by BEML

2972. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI LALIT SURI:

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) would absorb employees of closed Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka);

(b) how many employees are being absorbed by the BEML and is there any proposal to appoint children of retired employees of BGML on humanitarian grounds;

(c) how many units of BGML were taken over by the BEML and what was the extent of land acquired; and

(d) what are the industrial activities BEML planned to carry out at the premises of BGML?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does notarise.

(c) Two repairs workshops and 1109 acres of dry/waste land were acquired on a lease basis from BGML and BEML.

(d) One workshop will be used for manufacturing wagons such as Bogie Railways Special Type (BRST), Bogie Open Military (BOM). The other workshop will be used for fabrication of heavy equipment as well as for welding of structures.

The land will be used to lay a test track for the Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) project and for the proposed (Self Propelled) SP gun (BHIM T6) Project.

Poor Condition of Border Road Connecting Nepal

2973. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the border roads connecting Nepal are in a bad shape, and the road at Raxaul, the last Indian point on the India-Nepal border is a case in point;

(b) whether Government is aware that all these roads require upgradation and better maintenance for promotion of transportation and better trade with Nepal;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring the construction and maintenance of these under the control of National Highway Authority of India; and

(d) if so, action plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Construction and maintenance of roads is a State subject, except in the case of National Highways. NH-28A (Motihari to Raxaul) is the last point connecting Nepal. To improve the condition of NH-28A, its upgradation has been proposed under the National Highways Development Project (Phase-Ill) to be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in the final stage.